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Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE
Twentieth session
Geneva, 4-22 May 1998

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The twentieth session of the Committee against Torture will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 4 to 22 May 1998. The first meeting of the session will be convened on Monday, 4 May 1998, at 10.00 a.m.

2. In accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has prepared the attached provisional agenda for the twentieth session. Annotations to the provisional agenda are also attached.

3. Pursuant to rule 31 of the rules of procedure, the meetings of the Committee will be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise or it appears from the relevant provisions of the Convention that the meetings should be held in private.

4. The attention of the States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 7 which contain the tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the twentieth session. In accordance with rule 66 of the rules of procedure, representatives of States parties are invited to attend the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee.

3. Election of the officers of the Committee.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

5. Organizational and other matters.

6. Submission of reports by States parties under article 19 of the Convention.

7. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 19 of the Convention.

8. Consideration of information received under article 20 of the Convention.

9. Consideration of communications under article 22 of the Convention.

10. Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights.

11 Annual report of the Committee on its activities.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General

The twentieth session of the Committee will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General, who will preside over the meeting until the election of the Chairman of the Committee.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure (CAT/C/3/Rev.2), the five members of the Committee elected or re-elected at the Sixth Meeting of the States parties to the Convention on 26 November 1997 will make the following solemn declaration:

> "I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as a member of the Committee against Torture honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously."

3. Election of the officers of the Committee

In accordance with article 18, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and rules 15 and 16 of the rules of procedure, the Committee shall elect from among its members a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur. The officers of the Committee shall be elected for a term of two years.

4. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 8 of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda of any session shall follow the election of officers when required under rule 15. In accordance with rule 9, during a session the Committee may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, defer or delete items; only urgent and important items may be added to the agenda.

5. Organizational and other matters

Under this item, the Committee may wish to consider its programme of work for the session, as well as any other matter concerning the modalities of discharging its functions under the Convention.

6. Submission of reports by States parties under article 19 of the Convention

It may be recalled that in accordance with rule 65 of its rules of procedure and the Committee's decisions, the Secretary-General sends reminders automatically to those States parties whose initial reports are more than 12 months overdue and subsequent reminders every 6 months. In the case of reports which are more than three years overdue, the Chairman of the Committee, at its request, discusses the question of reporting obligations with the representatives of the States parties concerned or addresses a letter on the subject to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as appropriate. In

addition, the Committee includes information on non-compliance by States parties with their reporting obligations in its annual report to the States parties and to the General Assembly.

The situation with regard to overdue reports as at 5 March 1998 is as follows:

State party	Date on which the report was due
Initial reports	
Uganda	25 June 1988
Togo	17 December 1988
Guyana	17 June 1989
Brazil	27 October 1990
Guinea	8 November 1990
Somalia	22 February 1991
Venezuela	27 August 1992
Estonia	19 November 1992
Yemen	4 December 1992
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5 March 1993
Benin	10 April 1993
Latvia	13 May 1993
Seychelles	3 June 1993
Cape Verde	3 July 1993
Cambodia	13 November 1993
Burundi	19 March 1994
Slovakia	27 May 1994
Slovenia	14 August 1994
Antigua and Barbuda	17 August 1994
Costa Rica	10 December 1994
Ethiopia	12 April 1995
Albania	9 June 1995
United States of America	19 November 1995
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11 December 1995
Chad	9 July 1996
Uzbekistan	27 October 1996
Republic of Moldova	27 December 1996
Côte d'Ivoire	16 January 1997
Lithuania	1 March 1997
Democratic Republic of the Congo	16 April 1997
Malawi	10 July 1997
El Salvador	16 July 1997
Azerbaijan	14 September 1997
Honduras	3 January 1998
Second periodic reports	
Afghanistan	25 June 1992
Belize	25 June 1992
Bulgaria	25 June 1992
Cameroon	25 June 1992

State party	Date on which the report was due
Second periodic reports (continued)	
Philippines	25 June 1992
Uganda	25 June 1992
Austria	27 August 1992
Luxembourg	28 October 1992
Togo	17 December 1992
Guyana	17 June 1993
Turkey	31 August 1993
Australia	6 September 1994
Brazil	27 October 1994
Guinea	8 November 1994
Somalia	22 February 1995
Malta	12 October 1995
Liechtenstein	1 December 1995
Romania	16 January 1996
Nepal	12 June 1996
Venezuela	27 August 1996
Yugoslavia	9 October 1996
Estonia	19 November 1996
Yemen	4 December 1996
Jordan	12 December 1996
Monaco	4 January 1997
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5 March 1997
Benin	10 April 1997
Latvia	13 May 1997
Seychelles	3 June 1997
Cape Verde	3 July 1997
Cambodia	13 November 1997
Czech Republic	31 December 1997
Mauritius	7 January 1998
Third periodic reports	
Afghanistan	25 June 1996
Belarus	25 June 1996
Belize	25 June 1996
Bulgaria	25 June 1996
Cameroon	25 June 1996
Egypt	25 June 1996
France	25 June 1996
Hungary	25 June 1996
Philippines	25 June 1996
Russian Federation	25 June 1996
Senegal	25 June 1996
Uganda	25 June 1996
Uruguay	25 June 1996
Canada	23 July 1996
Austria	27 August 1996
Luxembourg	28 October 1996

State party	Date on which the report was due
Third periodic reports (continued)	
Togo	17 December 1996
Colombia	6 January 1997
Ecuador	28 April 1997
Guyana	17 June 1997
Peru	5 August 1997
Turkey	31 August 1997
Tunisia	22 October 1997
Chile	29 October 1997
China	2 November 1997
Greece	4 November 1997
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6 January 1998
Netherlands	19 January 1998
Italy	10 February 1998

7. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 19 of the Convention

A tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the twentieth session, prepared by the Secretary-General, and subject to approval by the Committee, is given below:

Tuesday, 5 May 1998

France: second periodic report — CAT/C/17/Add.18

Wednesday, 6 May 1998

Norway: third periodic report — CAT/C/34/Add.8

Thursday, 7 May 1998

Guatemala: second periodic report — CAT/C/29/Add.3

Friday, 8 May 1998

New Zealand: second periodic report — CAT/C/29/Add.4

Monday, 11 May 1998

Germany: second periodic report — CAT/C/29/Add.2

Tuesday, 12 May 1998

Peru: second periodic report	CAT/C/20/Add.6

Wednesday, 13 May 1998

Panama: third periodic report	CAT/C/34/Add.9

Thursday, 14 May 1998

Kuwait: initial report	CAT/C/37/Add.1

Monday, 18 May 1998

Sri Lanka: initial report	CAT/C/28/Add.3

Tuesday, 19 May 1998

Israel: second periodic report	CAT/C/33/Add.3

8. Consideration of information under article 20 of the Convention

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVII of its rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item information which is, or appears to be, submitted for its consideration under article 20 of the Convention.

In accordance with the provisions of article 20, paragraph 5, of the Convention and rules 72 and 73 of the rules of procedure, all documents and proceedings of the Committee relating to its functions under article 20 of the Convention shall be confidential and all the meetings concerning its proceedings under that article shall be closed.

9. Consideration of communications under article 22 of the Convention

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XIX of its rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are, or appear to be, submitted to it under article 22 of the Convention.

In accordance with article 22, paragraph 6, of the Convention and rule 101, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure, meetings of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies during which communications under article 22 of the Convention are examined shall be closed.

10. Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

Under this item, the Committee will have before it the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session.

11. Annual report of the Committee on its activities

In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Committee shall submit an annual report on its activities to the States parties and to the General Assembly.

At its second session, the Committee decided to adopt its annual report at the end of its spring session, for appropriate transmission to the General Assembly during the same calendar year. Accordingly, the annual report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session will include the activities of the Committee at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions.